Case 2714

Pleuractis Verrill, 1864 (Cnidaria, Anthozoa): proposed designation of *Fungia paumotensis* Stutchbury, 1833 as the type species, with conservation of *Lobactis* Verrill, 1864

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve usage of the generic names of the mushroom corals *Pleuractis* Verrill, 1864 and *Lobactis* Verrill, 1864, by designating *Fungia paumotensis* Stutchbury, 1833 as the type species of *Pleuractis*.

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1. The species *Fungia scutaria* Lamarck, 1801 (p. 370) is the type species of *Pleuractis* Verrill, 1864 (p. 52). Verrill stated that he selected it as type, and based the designation on specimens from Singapore which were collected by Captain W. H. A. Putnam. At present, ten specimens from this collection, labelled as *Pleuractis scutaria*, are in the coral collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Examination of this material (MCZ 5398) revealed that all these specimens were misidentified by Verrill and actually belong to *Fungia paumotensis* Stutchbury, 1833 (p. 495, pl. 32, figs. 6a–b).

2. The syntypes of *Fungia scutaria* Lamarck, 1801 (no type locality given) were illustrated by Seba (1759, pl. 112, figs. 28–30). One of these figures (fig. 29) resembles only slightly the species currently known as *F. scutaria*. Seba's figures 28 and 30 resemble specimens of *F. cyclolites* Lamarck, 1801 and *F. fungites* (Linnaeus, 1758) respectively. The whereabouts of Seba's specimens are unknown. In Lamarck's collection at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris there are two corals from the Red Sea which are labelled *Fungia scutaria*. One of these (MNHN 297) was designated neotype of that species by myself (1989, p. 131). This neotype represents *F. scutaria* as it has been interpreted since Döderlein's (1902) taxonomic revision of *Fungia* (see Hoeksema, 1989).

3. The holotype of *F. paumotensis* (type locality 'Paumotos' = Tuamotu Archipelago, S. Pacific) is believed to be lost. Stutchbury (1833) did not indicate whether it was deposited in a museum or left in the field after the illustrations were made. It is neither in the British Museum (Natural History) nor in the collection of the Linnean Society of London, where it most likely would have been deposited. The illustrations of the holotype given by Stutchbury (1833, pl. 32, figs. 6a–b) are not clear enough to show its identity. Therefore in my taxonomic revision of the FUNGIIDAE (1989, p. 145) I designated a neotype (BMNH 1939.1.2.31) from Aku Maru, Gambier Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago. This neotype represents *F. paumotensis* as it has been interpreted since Döderlein's (1902) revision.

4. The species *Fungia dentigera* Leuckart, 1841 (p. 48, pl. 3, figs. 1–2) is the type species by original designation of *Lobactis* Verrill, 1864 (p. 52). In Döderlein's (1902)

revision of *Fungia*, and in subsequent works, *F. dentigera* has been considered a junior subjective synonym of *F. scutaria* (see Hoeksema, 1989, p. 130).

5. Wells (1966, p. 238), in his generic revision of the FUNGIIDAE, united *Pleuractis* and *Lobactis* under the name *Pleuractis* as a subgenus in *Fungia* Lamarck, 1801. I believe (1989, pp. 129–130, 134, 256–257) that the true *Fungia scutaria* differs from the *Pleuractis* species and should be classified with another subgenus. Since *Fungia dentigera*, a junior subjective synonym of *F. scutaria*, is the type species of *Lobactis*, *F. scutaria* should be classified with *Lobactis*. Hence maintenance of the nominal species *F. scutaria* Lamarck as the type species of *Pleuractis*, ignoring the misidentification by Verrill (1864), will cause confusion.

6. This case is being referred to the Commission under Article 70b of the Code. As a result of the neotype designation of *Fungia scutaria*, the type species of *Pleuractis* and *Lobactis* are synonymous, and because of Wells' first reviser action in 1966, *Pleuractis* has precedence over *Lobactis*. To conserve the existing usage of both *Pleuractis* and *Lobactis*, I propose as type species of *Pleuractis* the species actually considered by Verrill (1864) and wrongly named in its type fixation, namely *Fungia paumotensis*.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous designations of type species for the nominal genus *Pleuractis* Verrill, 1864 and to designate *Fungia paumotensis* Stutchbury, 1833 as the type species;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
   (a) *Pleuractis* Verrill, 1864 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Fungia paumotensis* Stutchbury, 1833;
   (b) *Lobactis* Verrill, 1864 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Fungia dentigera* Leuckart, 1841 (a junior subjective synonym of *Fungia scutaria* Lamarck, 1801);

(3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
   (a) *paumotensis* Stutchbury, 1833, as published in the binomen *Fungia paumotensis* and as defined by the neotype designated by Hoeksema (1989) (specific name of the type species of *Pleuractis* Verrill, 1864, by designation in (1) above);
   (b) *scutaria* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the binomen *Fungia scutaria* and as defined by the neotype designated by Hoeksema (1989) (senior subjective synonym of *Fungia dentigera* Leuckart, 1841, the type species of *Lobactis* Verrill, 1864).

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